



The Croydon Chronicle

Fall 2016

Letter from the Supervisor

For Melinda and I, this fall marks a special occasion. It is our 10th anniversary working at CCNC together! As we look back on past programs and reminisce about all of the fun we have had we are truly grateful to you, our visitors, for making the Nature Center such a wonderful place to work. We truly enjoy sharing our love of the environment with all of our patrons. It reminds me of that saying, "Choose a job you love and you'll never have to work a day in your life".

We have some fun programming in store for you this fall! Each season we analyze feedback from you and think about new ways to bring nature to our patrons. We are open to ideas and suggestions from you, so if you have a terrific idea for a new program, just email us at ccnc@rockvillemd.gov and we'll see what we can make happen.

We are excited to offer a nature play-based program for toddlers aged 18-36 months called **Little Acorns**, beginning in September. We'll combine aspects of nature play and discovery with a variety of sensory activities to introduce children to nature. Another new program series is our **Outdoor Science Club** where 6-8 year olds will meet monthly to explore a new science topic. We are also offering a training session on how to use the **iNaturalist** app to document what you see as you explore the natural world. See our newsletter article for more information about this social media app.

WSSC has plans to continue its sewer rehabilitation, repair and restoration project in the forest preserve this fall. They could be back as early as Aug. 25 to begin their work.

This time they will be focused on restoring the area off of the Overlook Trail just below Monkey Rock. As a result you will likely see the same type of limited access to our Overlook and Woodland trails as you did last fall. We are working on some new trail maps to help guide you around these work areas so you can continue to enjoy the preserve.

We hope to see you at Croydon Creek Nature Center this fall!

Warm wishes,

Elissa Totin
Nature Center Supervisor

Croydon Creek Nature Center

852 Avery Road, Rockville, MD, 20851

Phone

240-314-8770

Web address

www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek

Email

ccnc@rockvillemd.gov

Hours of Operation

Tuesday through Saturday,
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday, 1-5 p.m.

Closed Mondays

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Autumn Salt Dough

You will need:

- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup salt
- 1 cup warm water
- Food coloring (we used autumn colors like red, yellow and orange)
- Spices such as cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger or allspice

Directions:

1. Mix flour and salt together in a bowl.

Tip: Add the spices to the flour mixture prior to mixing in the water. To make different scents with the same batch, add the spices after mixing in the water. Remember that these spices will color the dough. More spice can be added to the dough after it is mixed to adjust the scent.

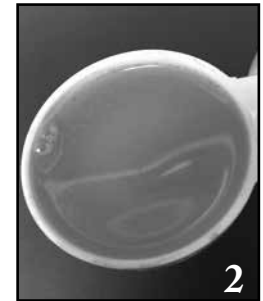
2. Add water in small amounts, mixing as you go. It should come together in a slightly sticky dough but not so sticky that residue comes off on your fingers. If the dough is too wet, to correct it, add more flour to balance it out.

Tip: To make a more even color, add the food coloring to the water before mixing it into the dough. To make different colors with one recipe, color can be added after the dough is mixed.

3. Dough can be rolled out to about 1 centimeter in thickness and cut with cookie cutters and printed with leaves. Use a straw to make a hole in the top for hanging.
4. Bake dough at 300 degrees for about an hour or until it is dry in the middle.

Adapted from www.imaginationtree.com.

Materials



Bird Seed Sale

Check out our website in November for information on our annual bird seed sale
www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek

Check out a few of our new programs!

Little Acorns

Explore nature with your little ones through a variety of play-based activities. Time will be spent outdoors weather permitting. Adult participation required. Advanced registration recommended. Age: 18-36 months

Outdoor Science Club

Young scientists will explore a variety of science topics through hands-on activities and time spent exploring the forest preserve. Age: 6-8.

See insert for full details.

Apps to Get You Outside: Pokémon Go vs. iNaturalist

By Melinda Norton,
Assistant Supervisor

By this time you have probably heard of Pokémon Go, a game played on mobile devices. It was released in the U.S. on July 6, and within the first week of its release this free app became



the most downloaded app of all time on Apple's App Store. If you aren't familiar, Pokémon Go is a location-based mobile game where the player "hunts" for Pokémon characters in the "wild." It uses augmented reality technology to place Pokémon figures in what the player is seeing on their screen in real time by using the mobile device's camera and gyroscope. Since its release, Pokémon Go has been lauded for getting people outside. As players travel around outdoor settings the game uses the mobile device's GPS to present Pokémon characters on the screen for the player to attempt to capture. By speed, the game can tell whether the player is walking or driving, and the more walking the player does the more success they have in the game. Pokémon characters can be found everywhere from Rockville Town Center to the National Mall; some even live in the Civic Center Park. The Pokémon Go craze has gotten even the most faithful screen addicts off the couch and into the real world.

Few video games can boast that they get people exploring outside and physically moving around, which makes Pokémon Go unique. However, Pokémon Go has been criticized for exposing players to dangers outside. Distracted walking can be just as bad as distracted driving and it is easy to walk into a dangerous situation without realizing it when you are focused on your screen. There have also been questions about the appropriateness of playing this game in locations that are meant to be reflective and respectful,

such as monuments on the National Mall, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and Arlington National Cemetery, and play has been banned in some places. And while this app is getting many people out of their house and walking around in their communities, since players are focused on the game, they are often oblivious to the world around them. Despite the criticism, Pokémon Go's reach cannot be denied and getting people outside and moving around is a win for wellness; however, if you find yourself out on the hunt for Pokémon don't forget to look up and enjoy the world around you.

Although not nearly as popular as Pokémon Go, iNaturalist is another app for mobile devices that encourages its users to get outside. iNaturalist is not a game but a citizen-science project, a social network and a method of biodiversity mapping all in one. It was released in 2008 and its focus is to map as many organisms as possible in as many places throughout the world as possible. Users head out into the world and make observations of organisms, dead or alive, or signs of life (such as nests and tracks), and upload them to the iNaturalist community. Observations can be in the form of a photo, video or sound clip. Each upload is mapped by using the geotagging function on your mobile device's camera to show the exact location of the observation. If you don't use a mobile device, observations can also be made by uploading photos and video to the web via iNaturalist.org. iNaturalist is not an app just for scientists or outdoor experts, even the most amateur of outdoor observers can use it. It is not necessary to be able to exactly

identify organisms that are found. All it takes is curiosity about the world and a camera. Sign up for a free iNaturalist account and then go out and observe. Take clear pictures, videos or sound clips of your observations and then upload them to iNaturalist. During the upload process, observations can be identified by the most basic of categories: "something" to simply plant or animal. If the exact species is known, that can also be added. Once the observation is uploaded, it is shared with the community that adds, improves or confirms the identification. Observations can become research grade if they include clear photos or sound, are georeferenced, include a date and are confirmed by other members of the community. Although iNaturalist is not a research project in itself, it can be used as a platform for biodiversity research by students and scientists all over the world. To date, more than 2.6 million individual observations of 90,500 different species have been made by the iNaturalist community. If you would like to learn more about how to use the iNaturalist app, Croydon Creek is offering an iNaturalist class on Saturday, Sept. 10, 10-11 a.m. The class is free but registration is required. See our website or give us a call for more information.

Whatever it is that drives you to go outside and explore, we hope that you will spend some time doing that here in the Hayes Forest Preserve.



The Croydon Chronicle

Fall Programs

Creek Clean-Up

Earn SSL hours while helping to clean up our creek and trails. No advanced registration is required. Participants under age 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

Age: 3+
56414 Su 9/18 1:30-4:30 PM Free
Croydon Creek Ntr. Ctr.

Croydon Creek Campfire (Adult/Child)

Gather around the campfire with your friends for stories, snacks and more. An adult must accompany children and all participants must register.

Fall Night Hike – All Ages

Enjoy a naturalist led hike through the forest preserve and s'mores by the campfire.

56410 Sa 9/17 7:30-8:30 PM \$5/\$6

Spooky Stories – All Ages

A campfire provides the perfect setting for some child-friendly spooky stories and a delicious treat.

56411 Sa 10/15 7-8 PM \$5/\$6

Family Geocaching

Learn the history of geocaching and the basics needed to use our GPS units, then head out on our geocaching trail with your family to test your skills. This program will be partially self-guided. All participants must register, including adults.

Past Meets Present – All Ages

Join us for a geocaching adventure bringing Rockville's past to life. Bring your family and use a GPS unit to work your way through the Rockville Cemetery to discover some history hidden in this tucked away place.

56408 Su 10/16 1:30-3 PM \$5/\$7
Croydon Creek Ntr. Ctr.

New! iNaturalist

iNaturalist is a site, app and community for reporting personal observations of any plant or animal in the world. It's a great platform for recording daily observations of the living natural world and a useful tool to find out what others have seen in a particular area. We'll explain more about the app and website and teach participants how to use the app on a hike in the forest. Download it on iTunes or Google Play prior to class.

Age: 12+
56742 Sa 9/10 10-11 AM Free
Croydon Creek Ntr. Ctr.

Green Your Backyard

Saturday, September 10

10:30 a.m. to Noon

Lincoln Park Community Center

Learn about RainScapes Rewards and other city programs. Green your backyard and reduce pollution.

Topics include rain barrels, conservation landscaping, tree planting and other environmental tips. Residents are eligible to enter a free raffle for a rain barrel.

Open on a first-come, first-served basis, Registration required. To register, call the RainScapes coordinator at 240-314-8877 or email rainscapes@rockvillemd.gov with your name and address.

Croydon Creek Nature Center • 852 Avery Road, Rockville, MD, 20851

Phone

240-314-8770

Website

www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek

Email

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City of
Rockville
Get Into It

Hours of Operation

Tuesday through Saturday,
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday, 1-5 p.m.

Closed Mondays

New! Little Acorns

Explore nature with your little ones through a variety of play-based activities. Time will be spent outdoors, weather permitting. Adult participation required. Advanced registration recommended.

Age: 18-36 mo

Water

56746 Th 9/15 10-11 AM \$7/\$8

Meadow

56747 Th 9/29 10-11 AM \$7/\$8

Bats

56748 Th 10/13 10-11 AM \$7/\$8

Creepy Crawlies

56749 Th 10/27 10-11 AM \$7/\$8

Turkeys

56750 Th 11/10 10-11 AM \$7/\$8

Ready for Winter

56751 Th 12/8 10-11 AM \$7/\$8

Croydon Creek Ntr. Ctr.

New! Musicmakers

Does your child love making music and making crafts? Spend the morning creating musical instruments with your child using a variety of arts and crafts materials. Adult participation required. Register by 11/26.

Age: 3-6

56741 Sa 12/3 10-11 AM \$7/\$9

Croydon Creek Ntr. Ctr.

Natural Holiday Crafts (Adult/Child)

Spend the afternoon using a variety of natural or recycled objects to make holiday crafts and ornaments. Each participant will complete at least three projects. Adult participation required for children under age 8. Register by: Nov. 28.

Age: 6-12

56409 Su 12/4 1:30-3 PM \$10/\$13

Croydon Creek Ntr. Ctr.

Nature Tots (Adult/Child)

Spend time with your child discovering the wonders of nature. A Naturalist will help you explore a new nature topic through nature play, crafts, stories and hikes. Dress for the weather. This program is intended to provide special one-on-one time for you and your child. Adult participation required. Spaces are limited.

Age: 3-6

Camouflage

56400 Sa 9/24 10-11:30 AM \$8/\$10

Beavers

56401 Sa 10/8 10-11:30 AM \$8/\$10

Spiders

56402 Sa 10/29 10-11:30 AM \$8/\$10

Leaves

56403 Sa 11/19 10-11:30 AM \$8/\$10

Croydon Creek Ntr. Ctr.

New! Outdoor Science Club

Young scientists will explore a variety of science topics through hands-on activities and time spent exploring the forest preserve.

Age: 6-8

Stream Ecology

Prepare to get wet as we take to the creek to discover the macro-invertebrates found in our watershed.

56743 Su 9/25 1:30-3 PM \$8/\$10

Raptors

Discover birds of prey, dissect an owl pellet and investigate the forest for evidence of raptors.

56744 Su 10/23 1:30-3 PM \$8/\$10

Weather

Learn about weather by conducting several science experiments that demonstrate different atmospheric science principles.

56745 Su 11/20 1:30-3 PM \$8/\$10

Croydon Creek Ntr. Ctr.

SCOUT BADGE DAYS



WEBELOS INTO THE WOODS BADGE

Sun., Oct. 2

WEBELOS INTO THE WILD BADGE

Sun., Nov. 6

2-4 p.m.

Naturalists will help you complete the necessary requirements to achieve the badges.

All materials provided; however, badges are not supplied by the Nature Center. Programs held rain or shine. Dress for the weather.

Cost: \$14 residents; \$16 non-residents

For additional information or to register,

call Melinda Norton at 240-314-8771

or email mnorton@rockvillemd.gov.

To register visit www.rockvillemd.gov/guide

Price key:

Resident Discount/Non Resident Rate



CROYDON CREEP

at the Nature Center

FRIDAY, OCT. 21 • 6-8 p.m.

Spooky Nature Hike • Magic Show • Hands-On Activities and Games

All ages welcome – \$5 per child at the door

Adults and children under 2 are free

All children must be accompanied by an adult.

www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek • 240-314-8770

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